

CHIEF OF THE "WILDCATS" GENERAL C. BATLEY, PENNSYLVANIAN, COMMANDED THE 81ST IN FRANCE

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One of the men best known to North Carolinians who served in the war is General Charles Justin Bailey, who commanded the 81st or Wildcat Division. The North Carolina Historical Commission is glad to preserve the record of this Pennsylvanian who is now a North Carolinian also in the affections of this State. The important dates in his record follow:

Born in Pennsylvania, June 21, 1859; entered the U. S. Military Academy from New York, September, 1, 1876; graduated June 12, 1880, standing eighth in his class; 2nd lieutenant June 12, 1880; 1st lieutenant January 14, 1888; captain, March 2, 1889; Major June 4, 1905; lieutenant colonel September 1, 1908; colonel March 11, 1911. Appointed brigadier general by President Wilson October 10, 1913.

Up to the date of his appointment as brigadier general General Bailey, served in the artillery branch of the army. He served as President of the Artillery Board at Fort Monroe, Virginia, for some years and went from there to Washington in 1907 for service on the General Staff: He was made the Secretary of the Army War College and later the principal assistant to the Chief of Coast Artillery in the War Department. On being promoted to a general officer, he was sent to the Philippines in 1914, where for three years he first commanded the fortifications of the Islands and later the Philippine Department itself.

In August, 1917, he was made a major general in the National Army, brought back to the United States and sent to Camp Jackson, Columbia, S. C., to organize and command the 81st Division. He joined the division in October, 1917. In December of that year he was ordered abroad, with other division commanders, for an inspection of our own and foreign methods of fighting, and visited, during the next three months, the British, French and American fronts. Returning in March, 1918, he took the division to Camp Sevier, Greenville, S. C., in May, and in July, 1918, embarked with it, at Hoboken, N. Y., for service in France.

After a month's training there the division was sent to a Trench Sector in eastern France, and then to join the 1st Army at Verdun, where it participated in the fighting immediately preceding the armistice. The 81st Division was made up at first principally of men from North and South Carolina and Florida, but men from the other southern states soon joined in large numbers, together with some from New York. Later many came from other northern states, and at its demobilization every state and territory was represented. It was, however, a Southern Division to the last, and North Carolina was one of the states contributing most largely to it. What credit was given it was due to the character and qualifications of its officers and men, and to this North Carolina contributed to an eminent degree.

For his services as Division Commander General Bailey received the following decorations:

1. Distinguished Service Medal, United States.

"For exceptionally meritorious and distinguished services. He commanded the 81st Division with distinction throughout its operations, beginning October 1, 1918. The excellent conduct of this division was due in a large measure to his great military knowledge, energy and zeal. He has shown qualities of able leadership and has rendered services of great value to the American Expeditionary Forces."

2. Officer, Legion of Honor and Croix de Guerre with Palm, France.